

# FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue's penetrating interview with Professor C. Brian Rose (p. 51), the professor suggests that the best thing parents can do for their children is to help them learn a different language—ideally, by living in a foreign country. He asserts that, “You can't really understand the hopes, desires, the fear, the anger of a different group of people unless you can converse with them in their language.”

The study of classics is, in many ways, the study of a language—not Latin or Ancient Greek but a language of thought and communication. As students of classical antiquity, we learn to see the themes and buried meanings of words. We learn to see a story in a coin and an epic in an amphora. We learn to understand the ideas of others and express our own to the world.

In this issue, four authors communicate their thoughts. Katie Levesque picks apart the evidence surrounding the “Tomb of Philip II” in Vergina to identify its occupants. Carly Sokach analyzes Athens' use of divine cults to reinforce the rhetoric of Athenian expansion into the Saronic Gulf. Nathan Weinbren questions the role of gender in Hecuba's and Demeter's reactions to the deaths of their children. Finally, Allyson Zucker investigates Seneca's take on first impressions in *Medea* and *De Consolatione ad Helviam*.

*Discentes* sat down with Professor Rose to discuss his research, perspectives on archaeology, and experience working with the U.S. military to protect cultural treasures in Iraq and Afghanistan. Also in Conversations, this semester's featured post-baccalaureate student, Thomas Motter, explains his unorthodox path to the graduate study of classics. This issue also includes several recent graduates' perspectives on

life after Penn classics as well as a Homer-themed holiday card written and designed by Katie Levesque.

*Discentes* was conceived as a forum for students to converse and expand their understanding of classics and its place in the modern world. The magazine is for “those who learn.” Join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carson Woodbury". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Carson" and last name "Woodbury" clearly distinguishable.

Carson Woodbury